

Gunning's Delight Farm
AL-VI-A-155

In 1882 J.B. Gunning purchased a house and lot near Cresaptown. The frame house, which had been the property of the Darrow and Brady families, was probably built during the mid-nineteenth century. On the lot Gunning built a distillery and produced rye whiskey, known as "Gunnings Delight". He also operated a saloon which was housed in an addition to his residence. Before 1900 he purchased more than 1,000 acres of farms surrounding his house to create the "Gunnings Delight" Farm. By 1903 Gunning got out of the distillery business and turned to agriculture and the raising of livestock, which he was very successful at doing.

The two story frame house is the only original building remaining on the farm. Although the principle facade is in relatively original condition a large number of variously shaped additions obscure the remainder of the building. Only the foundation of the frame distillery remains. Other buildings including an aging house, barns, and two other dwellings have been removed.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gunning's Delight Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Winchester Road

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Cresaptown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 21502

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

X STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bertrand R. Mason

Telephone #: 729-1955

STREET & NUMBER

903 National Highway

CITY, TOWN

LaVale

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 150

Folio #: 145

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

RL-VI-A-155

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

X CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building originally consisted of a two story, three bays wide rectangular frame structure with german siding. It rests on a low stone foundation of random rubble with a plain water table. The gable flank roof is covered with ribbed tin on the northwest. Eaves consist of a cornice, soffit, and bed mould. An outside end chimney of glazed white brick has a corbeled cap. Replaced pedimented windows are wide one over one lights with wooden lugsills. The main entrance, in the center of the northwestern facade, includes sidelights of four lights and one panel each. The door is of two panels and eight lights. A porch on the northwest has a hipped roof covered with ribbed tin supported by square wooden posts.

Alterations of the original building include the addition of a central gable with a pedimented entrance and a circular ventilator. The rear of the gabled roof was elevated and extended. The porch was extended onto the northeastern facade.

Additions include an enclosed porch on the northeast with a hip roofed rectangular addition partially supported by wooden posts on the second floor. A cross gabled addition, a tavern, abuts the original on the southwest and extends towards the southeast. Two flat roofed additions of two stories abut this addition on the northeast and southwest, the one on the southwest has a parapet front.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

J.B. Gunning was born in Eckhart Mines in 1854. Like many young men of the George's Creek mining region his education ended early when he went to work in the mines at an early age. At the age of 19 he became the "weighmaster" at the Consolidation Coal Company's Hoffman mines and later was a brakeman on the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1879 he moved to Wilmington, Delaware to open a retail grocery business. (1)

In 1882 Gunning returned to Allegany County and purchased a house and lot near Cresaptown. The frame house, which had been the property of the Darrow and Brady families, was probably built during the mid-nineteenth century. (2) On the small tract of land Gunning built a distillery and produced rye whiskey. (3) This venture into distilling may have been encouraged by his father-in-law, John J. Hughes, who operated "a large distilling business at Bedford", Pennsylvania. (4) Thomas and Williams, Gunnings biographers, described the success of his business:

His initial venture was a modest one, as his capital was not great, but he worked industriously, producing an excellent grade of goods, and eventually built up a large and lucrative business. His special brand of goods, known as "Gunnings Delight", became famed all over this section of the country, and his straight-forward methods and integrity in all transactions assisted in building up his trade and making his name an honored one in business circles. (5)

Assessments of Gunning's property made between 1893 and 1905 show that a steadily increasing number of barrels of distilled spirits were produced and stored in an aging house. At one time as many as 310 barrels of whiskey were assessed. (6) Gunning also operated a saloon which was housed in an addition to his residence. (7)

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

James W. Thomas and T.J. C Williams, History of Allegany County (Philadelphia:
L.R. Titsworth and Company)
Allegany County Land Records
Allegany County Assessments

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

453.836 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

January 31, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

By 1903 Gunning "disposed of his interest" in the distillery and "devoted his abilities to agriculture and livestock raising". (8) Before the turn of the century he purchased more than 1000 acres of the surrounding farms to create the "Gunning's Delight" farm. (9) He managed his farm in an "enterprising and progressive manner" and was willing to "experiment with innovations." (10) Beginning with 150 Angora goats to clean the farm of undergrowth he built a herd of hundreds of cattle, sheep, and hogs fed on wheat, corn, hay, and grass produced on the farm.(11)

The efficiency and success of his operation attracted attention, he served at different times as the Director of the Cumberland Fair Association and was appointed a member of the Maryland Livestock Sanitary Commission. In the latter capacity Gunning "Assisted greatly in formulating plans for a more closely supervised livestock inspection" and encouraged 22 local dairymen to construct sanitary barns. (12)

Gunning's political activity began in 1900 when he was elected county commissioner. During the first of two terms as commissioners he was involved in early attempts to create a powerful State Roads Commission. Later in 1903, Gunning was "instrumental in having the first mile of macadam road laid in Maryland under United States Government supervision", on the National Road between Cumberland and Frostburg. In 1907 he was defeated in an attempt to be elected to the state legislature. (13)

The two story frame house is the only original building remaining on the farm. Although the principle facade is in relatively original condition a large number of variously shaped additions obscure the remainder of the building. Only the foundation of the frame distillery remains. Other buildings including an aging house, barns, and two other dwelling have been removed.

- (1) James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County (Philadelphia: L.R. Titworth and Company) p.892-893 Vol. II
- (2) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 58, Folio 426
- (3) Interview with Mrs. Cora Mason, Cresaptown, 1-29-80
- (4) Thomas & Williams Vol. II P. 894
- (5) Ibid, p 893
- (6) Allegany County Assessments, District 7, 1876-1895, p.62 1896-1909 pp.114-115
- (7) Interview with Mrs. Cora Mason
- (8) Thomas and Williams Vol. II p. 893
- (9) Allegany County Assessments District 7, 1910-1917, p. 80
- (10) Thomas and Williams Vol. II p. 893
- (11) Ibid, pp. 893-894
- (12) Ibid
- (13) Ibid and p. 669

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minorAL-VI-A-155 22 155NAME OF PROPERTY: J. B. GummingsLOCATION OF PROPERTY: Old Winchester RdDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NorthwestNAME OF OWNER: Robert A. Mason JrADDRESS: 903 N.H. Hwy 453.856 A
Will U-370 150/145
MAP 49 150/P. 20 729 1955

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: EAST West South. mostly on westDWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) irregular

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- german siding
- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
 () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
 () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
 (☒) LOG orig gable tank 3 bay - logs aren't too thick.
 () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others circular vent. later in addedFOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone rubble.WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other() lugaila
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center NW
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal BoardsCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave
overhang 8 Lights 2 long panels
d each side - arch. pan
capped Janes underneathROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: Number: 1 WHITE Glazed BRICK RIBBED
Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

CHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: _____

SIGNIFICANCE: _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____

REMARKS: _____

everything he got \$100 he put a new room
 she knew Andrew Ramsay.
 part of W and flat roof

Book

J.B. Gunning

County Commissioner

A BAR located in old part of Bldg.

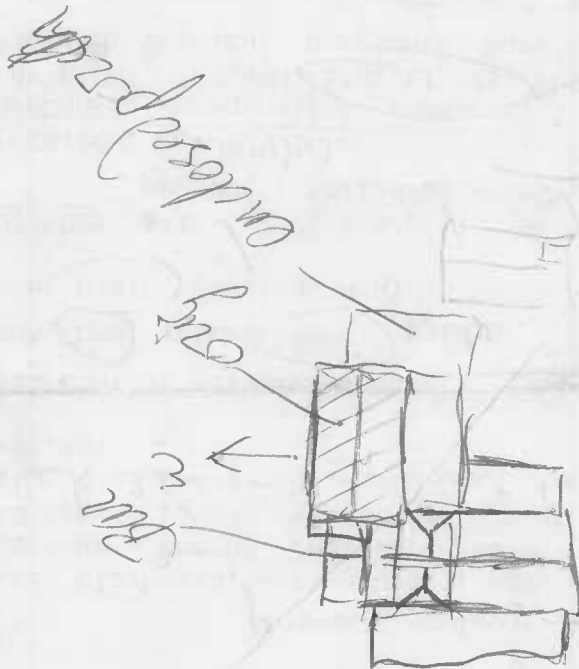
Gunning's Delight
Rye Whiskey

J.B. Gunning

Mrs. Mason —

Senator Ed.

Mike



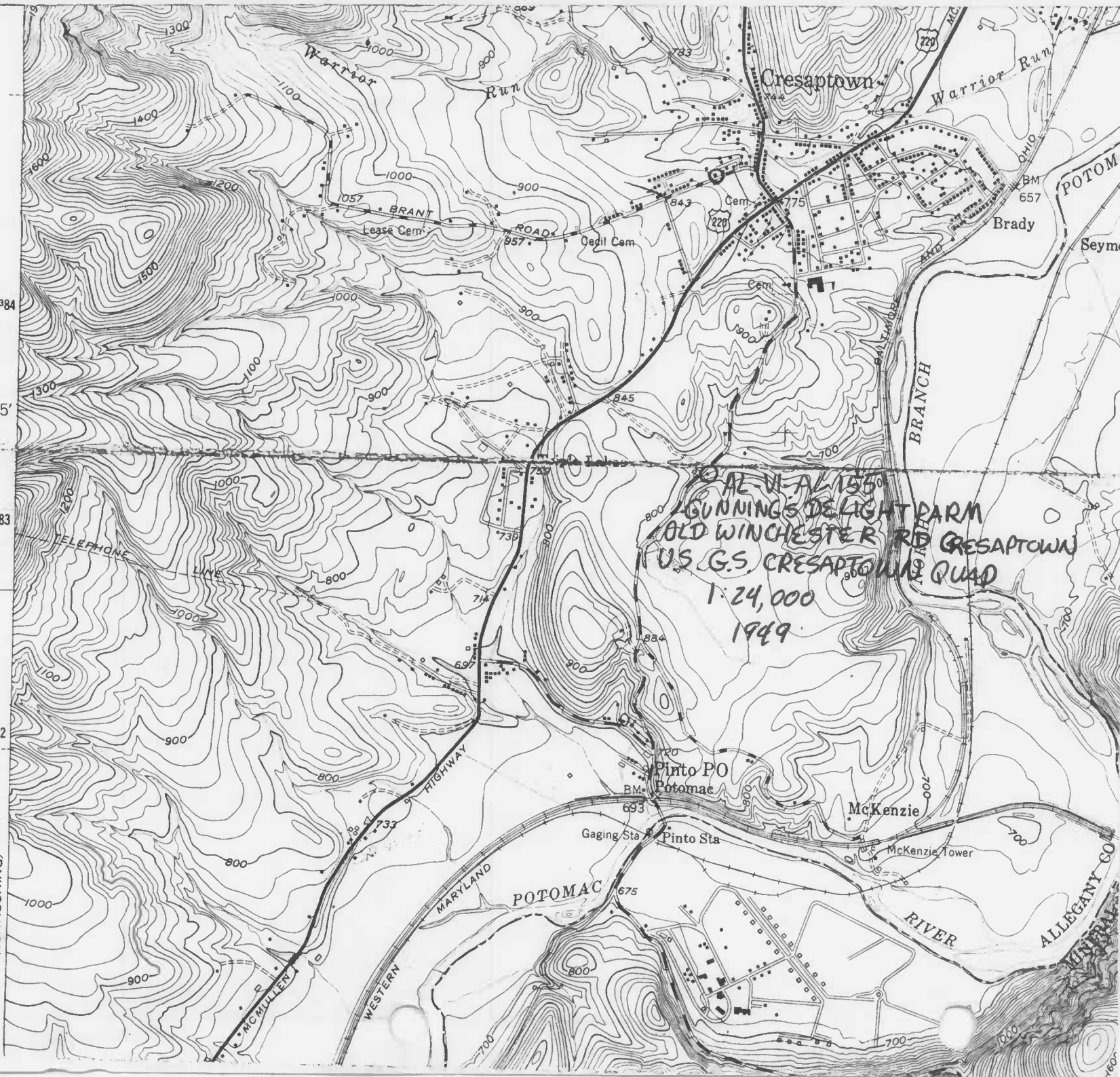
5263 III SW
(LONACONING)

4384

35'

4383

4382



J. B. GUNNING,

DISTILLER,

AND WHOLESALE DEALER IN

Pure Rye and Barley Malt Whiskey,

CRESAPTOWN,

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND.

AL-VI-A-155

Gunning's Delight Farm
Old Winchester Rd. Cresapton

Photocopy of letter head
Dave A. Dorsey

JAN, 31 1980



The young boy standing
in front of the barn
1907

A2. VI. A - 155

GUNNING'S DELIGHT FARM
OLD WINCHESTER RD, CRESAPTOWN

DAVID A. DORSEY

COPY OF OLD PHOTO

SHOWING DISTILLERY

JAN 31, 1980



AL-VI-A-155

Gunning's Delight Farm

Old Winchester Rd Cresap^{Town}

David A. Dorsey 10/22/78

EAST

NEG - Md. H. T

2 of 3



AL-VI-A-155

Gunning's Delight Farm

Old Winchester Rd. Cresaptown

David A. Dorsey 10/22/78

South

Neg - Md. H. T.

1 of 3



AL-VI-A-8155

Gunning's Delight Farm

Old Winchester Rd. Cresaptown

David A. Dorsey 10/22/78

North

Neg - Md. 4. T.

3 of 3